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*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*

## **Loyola’s John Felice Rome Center Welcomes Students in Newly Launched Rule of Law for Development Program**

**CHICAGO, September 14, 2011**— Loyola University Chicago’s School of Law has launched a new LLM program in Rule of Law for Development (PROLAW™) at its John Felice Rome Center in Italy. This unique one-year academic program is the first LLM degree program to focus on the practical aspects of rule of law advising aimed at strengthening the quality and sustainability of rule of law initiatives throughout the developing world and in countries in economic transition.

“With PROLAW in place, there is now an effective way in which governments and the international rule of law community may prepare individuals to do the very specific work that is essential to moving rule of law in the right direction,” said program director and former director general of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), William T. Loris. “PROLAW will ensure that best practice *is* common practice in this critical field.”

“We are very excited about this unique program in rule of law advising at Loyola,” said David Yellen, dean of the School of Law. “We are grateful for the financial support being provided by donors, and are delighted to welcome this amazing group of students from around the world committed to doing such important work.”

PROLAW’s first class of 25 students includes legal professionals from the United States, Australia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, The Kingdom of Tonga, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, South Africa, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe. While some students are recent law school graduates interested in public service and human rights, many come to Loyola with extensive experience in rule of law initiatives from their respective countries.

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“Mexico is currently facing a critical situation and needs to achieve full rule of law, which has been violated due to a severe security crisis,” said PROLAW student Pamela Gonzales Montes, 30, who comes to Loyola from the attorney general’s office in Mexico City, Mexico. “The law enforcement sector in Mexico requires suitable personnel to recover the social order. I am eager to gain the skills that are essential to promoting changes within the attorney general’s office through the construction of clear objectives, strategies, and effective training.”

Upon graduation, PROLAW students will have developed the skill necessary to build the rule of law in developing countries around the world. “I look forward to utilizing the knowledge and experience I will acquire from this unique program to help solve some of society’s problems, especially those related to poverty and injustice,” said Reginald Makoko, 35, a lawyer from Tanzania’s Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance. “As a human rights lawyer I believe that the knowledge of the rule of law is especially important in protecting, promoting, and preserving rights of the people.”

PROLAW is supported by a \$1.1 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as well as generous donations from Microsoft Corporation, Loyola law alumnus Bernard Beazley (JD ’50), Loyola University Chicago Trustee Barry McCabe, the U.S. Department of State Government of Uganda, and several employers of students who are currently enrolled in the program. Recruitment for fall 2012 enrollment is already underway. For more information, visit [LUC.edu/prolaw](http://LUC.edu/prolaw).

### **About Loyola University Chicago School of Law**

Loyola’s School of Law has been educating students across the country and around the world for 100 years. The school offers full- and part-time Juris Doctor programs, with specialized certificates available in advocacy, child and family law, health law, international law and practice, and tax law. For attorneys pursuing advanced legal education, the school offers Master of Laws programs in advocacy, business law, child and family law, health law, and tax law. In addition, the school offers the Master of Jurisprudence for non-attorney professionals in business, child and family law, and health law, as well as two doctoral degrees focusing on health law and policy (SJD and DLaw).

### **About Loyola University Chicago**

Committed to preparing people to lead extraordinary lives, Loyola University Chicago, founded in 1870, is the nation’s largest Jesuit, Catholic university. Enrollment is nearly 16,000 students, which includes more than 10,000 undergraduates hailing from all 50 states and 82 countries. The University has four campuses: three in the greater Chicago area and one in Rome, Italy. Loyola also serves as the U.S. host university to The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies in Beijing, China, and now features an academic center in Saigon-Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Loyola’s 10 schools and colleges include arts and sciences, business administration, communication,

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education, graduate studies, law, medicine, nursing, continuing and professional studies, and social work. Loyola offers 71 undergraduate majors, 71 undergraduate minors, 85 master's degrees, and 31 doctoral degrees. Loyola is consistently ranked among the top national universities by U.S. News & World Report, and the University is among a select group of universities recognized for community service and engagement by prestigious national organizations, such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service. For more information about Loyola, please visit [LUC.edu](http://LUC.edu).

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